



## March 2022

### Newsletter 12 – 4.3.22

#### WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Whole School (excluding Nursery)
<b>Wb 14.2.22</b>	97%	93%	100% ★	95%	96%	95%	96%
<b>Wb 28.2.22</b>	91%	93%	99%	91%	98%	98%	96%

Our school target for attendance is 97%.



**Attendance Matters**

Every student. Every day.

#### HOLIDAY REQUESTS

As mentioned in previous newsletters, I am unable to authorise absence from school for term time holidays and this remains the case under Local Authority and Department for Education guidance. Over the past few weeks, I have had several requests from families to take their children out of school during term time. The majority of children have already missed a significant amount of school during the last few years. Therefore, we really want to minimise any further absence or disruption to their learning. Thank you for your understanding and consideration of this matter.

Please let Mrs Pygall know if you intend to pick children up early – we had lots of children being collected during the afternoon, on the last day of term and today, that had not been arranged in advance. As you can imagine, it takes a lot of Mrs Pygall's time collecting children and their belongings from around school. This then has significant knock on effects for the office.

#### COVID UPDATE

Following the Prime Minister's announcement last week, setting out the next phase of the Government's COVID-19 response, we will be continuing with control measures in school regarding hand hygiene, cleaning, ventilation and following Public Health Advice.

We still have our contingency plans in place for stepping up measures, if and when needed, to respond to any future outbreaks of COVID in school.

Please see below the latest guidance regarding COVID measures in school.

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are a recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)



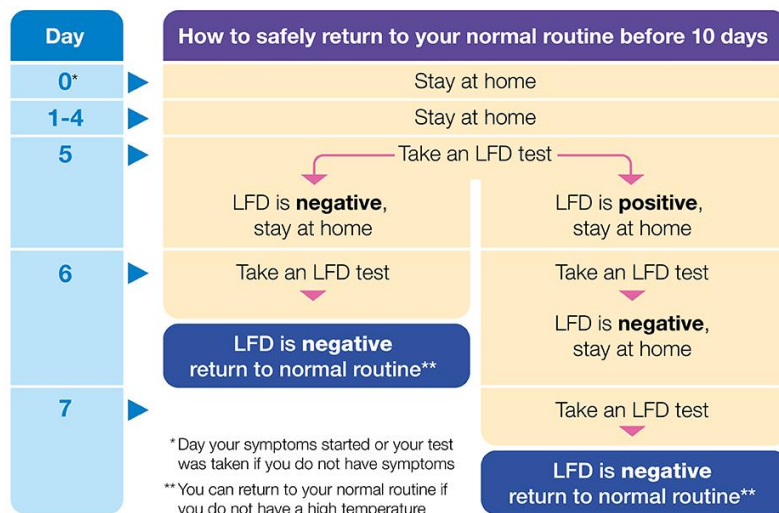
If you have any of these symptoms you should order a PCR test. You are advised **to stay at home and avoid contact with other people while you are waiting for the test result.**

Other symptoms linked with COVID-19 include shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of appetite, muscle ache, sore throat, headache, stuffy or runny nose, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting. Any of these symptoms may also have another cause.

Children and young people with COVID-19 **should not attend school while they are infectious.** They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they should return to their educational setting if they normally attend one, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature. If you have any of the main symptoms of Covid or a positive test result, **the public health advice is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.**

Children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who live with someone who has COVID-19 should continue to attend the setting as normal.

### How to safely return to your normal routine before 10 days



If your day 5 LFD test result is positive, you can continue taking LFD tests until you receive 2 consecutive negative test results.

Other key points are:

- Children and young people who live with someone who has Covid-19 should continue to attend their school as normal.
- If you can, you should let people who you have been in close contact with know about your positive test result.

## SCHOOL VALUES

As you know, our school values are love and determination, based on the Bible passage: Be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love (1 Corinthians 16:13-14).

In school, we have been looking to see children demonstrating these core values. The following children have been nominated by staff and/or peers for showing these values in school. Well done everyone!

	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
<b>Demonstrating Love</b>	Marcel Yashika	Thanuja Harmony	Earnest Percy	Zain Charlie	Phoebe Denver	Elliot Millie
<b>Demonstrating Determination</b>	Cai Aria	Rory	Rehan Luke	Huwariya Aziza	William David	Florence Callum

## STAFFING

It is with great sadness that I announce that Mrs Armstrong will be leaving our school on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March to begin a new part-time job at Brunton First School. Mrs Armstrong has worked at ARFS for 17 years and has made an outstanding contribution to the education of hundreds of children during her time here, not to mention all the support she has given to various annual nativities, leavers' celebrations and other events. She will leave a big hole at ARFS and we will all miss her amazing talents but we know that the families of Brunton will benefit from her skills and passion. We have appointed Miss Paiva to support in Year 2 and will recruit a new teaching assistant for Year 1 imminently.

We have also appointed Mrs Coates to work in the school office on Thursdays & Fridays, alongside Mrs Pygall until she leaves on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March, then full time.



## CHARITABLE GIVING

Regent Farm First School is currently organising a charitable appeal for families affected by the war in Ukraine for GST schools. Donations will be received, in school, until Friday 11th March (next week) when they will be taken to RFFS. Please leave any items in the main entrance (rather than sending them with your child). If you would like to donate, aid providers have requested the following items:

- toiletries such as soaps, shower gels, shampoo, conditioner, creams and deodorants
- hair brushes
- toothbrushes and toothpaste (adult and children)
- deodorants
- small items for children such as colouring books and crayons, small soft toys or puzzles
- new towels
- new children's and women's pyjamas
- warm blankets, camping mats and sleeping bags
- protein bars / energy bars
- painkillers (e.g. ibuprofen, paracetamol etc.)
- wound dressing materials and first aid kits
- thermals/base layers
- hot water bottles
- insulated flasks
- baby food and nappies
- sanitary products
- large and medium size backpacks
- male socks
- dry food - rice and pasta





### METRO REMINDER

A reminder that there will be no Metro services between South Gosforth to Airport on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March & Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Services will resume as normal on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March.

### READING BUDDIES

We are looking to recruit reading buddies to help in all classes. If you could spare an hour a week, please email class teachers who will be delighted to hear from you! You will require DBS clearance through our school - please speak to Mrs Pygall or Mrs Lowe, who will arrange this. Thank you in advance!



### WRAPAROUND

Booking are now open for Breakfast & Afterschool Club for April 2022. All bookings must be received and paid for by 11th March 2022. It is imperative that bookings are made monthly in advance so we can arrange staffing and resources. If you miss this deadline, we will not be able to accept your booking.

If you need any help, please contact [wraparound@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:wraparound@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk).

For more details see: <https://www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp/payments/book-and-pay-for-school-dinners-and-clubs/>

### PARENTS' EVENING

Parents Evening will go ahead face to face (or on the phone if you selected that option). However, it will look a bit different to those in the past:



#### For face-to-face appointments before 3:30pm:

- Please wait outside the main entrance to school
- Please do not arrive early
- Appointments will take place in the school hall. Seating will be distanced from staff.
- Children's books will be available to look at during the appointment

#### For face-to-face appointments after 3:30pm:

- Please wait outside classroom fire doors (in the playground through which children are dismissed) until your appointment
- Please do not arrive early
- Seating for parents will be distanced from staff within the classroom
- Children's books will be available to look at during the appointment

#### If you have opted for a phone appointment:

- Staff will phone you at the agreed appointment time
- Please ensure your contact details are up to date
- Books can be available for you to view if you wish. Please arrange with class teachers via email.



### E-SAFETY

E-safety is a central part of both our Computing and Personal, Social and Health Education curricula. We will use the newsletter to highlight some resources for families to help with e-safety at home.

Thinkuknow is a great resource that helps parents and carers to explore some e-safety concepts with their children at home and which supports key ideas that are explored at school. You can view some animations focused on telling a grown-up they trust if they see anything that worries them online. For more information, [click here](#).







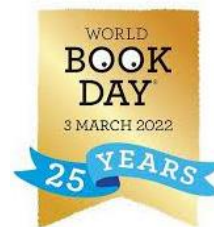
## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

This week in collective worship, we have talked about Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. We have had Worship led by many different people this week (not just Mrs Massey and Mr Booth!) including Rev'd Beverley

Davies from All Saints', as well as Year 4 and Year 3! The children have been thinking about not just things to give up during Lent but also positive, new things we may do to help others.

## WORLD BOOK DAY

Yesterday, we marked the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of World Book Day. Thank you to Miss Davison for organising it!



The children had a fantastic day; each teacher rotated round the classes to read their favourite stories and left them an activity to do. This included creating pieces of art based around the story, creating an alternative ending or researching a fact about the book.

Then, as a school, we created our very own story! Each teacher had an unusual object such as a treasure chest, a potato and even a cow's tooth! The children had to incorporate all the unusual objects to create the story which was weird but wonderful! The children looked fabulous in their costumes, own clothes and pyjamas. We raised £26 to put towards new books for our reading scheme. Thank you to everyone who made a donation.

## FEEDBACK

Following World Book Day yesterday, I would be interested to hear from parents regarding school events such as this and whether you as a family support these events going forward or if you would rather they did not take place or expectations were different (e.g. costumes/pyjamas/donations etc.). There is always a huge range of opinion on these matters and school practises vary hugely so it is important that our approach reflects the needs and opinions of our school community. You can email me your thoughts directly [kate.massey@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:kate.massey@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk). Thank you!



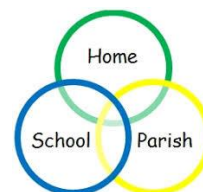
## BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

We will be marking British Science Week in school during the week of 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> March. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to come into school to talk to our children. It's not too late to volunteer! Please contact Miss Davison if you would like to come into school to share your knowledge of all things science during this week.



## CHURCH LINKS

Gosforth, St Nicholas' are organising a 'Buckingham Palace' garden party which really will be an amazing celebration for the Platinum Jubilee on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June. There will be party games, fancy dress, raffle and other events for families. Please save the date!



There will also be an exhibition in church of photos and documents of the last 70 years of St Nicholas' church and the parish so please dig out your old photo albums!

## NEWCASTLE CHOIRSTER EXPERIENCE

Newcastle Cathedral are organising their annual Chorister Experience afternoon on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

To find out more about becoming a Newcastle Cathedral Chorister, we are offering the Newcastle Cathedral Chorister Experience on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March. This is a special opportunity for children in Years 2-6 and their parents to visit the Cathedral and get some small sense of what it's like to be part of this elite team of young musicians.



Participants in the Newcastle Cathedral Chorister Experience will meet, warm up and rehearse with the choristers, and will join the Cathedral Choir in singing a special service at 4pm, to which parents and families of the participants are all warmly invited.

Click here to book your place:

<https://newcastle-chorister-experience.eventbrite.co.uk>

### **SAFEGUARDING**

Mrs Massey, Mr Booth, Miss Willett and Mrs Francis are our school's Designated Safeguarding Leaders. If you have concerns about a child, please contact one of us. If it is an emergency and a child is in immediate danger, please call the police.



Members of the public can also report concerns to Children's Social Care directly. If you have a concern about a child please contact one of the following:

- Initial Response Service – 0191 277 2500
- Northumbria Police – 101 (in an emergency always dial 999)
- NSPCC Helpline – 0808 800 5000

There is also a secure online referral form available for you to explain your concern, if you are a member of the public. <https://nccportal.newcastle.gov.uk/forms/referral/public>

With my very best wishes,

*Kate Massey*

Headteacher

## PTFA UPDATE



### SMARTIES TUBES

On Monday, the PTFA will send a tube of Smarties home with every child. We would like to ask you to return the tubes with any coins inside that they have earned by being helpful at home. Closing date is 25<sup>th</sup> March. The class with the most will get an ice-lolly treat!



### NAME THE EASTER BUNNY

Help to name our Easter Bunny - £1 for a chance to win the bunny or one second place prize per class. Slips will be sent home in mid-March for the Children to name the bunny! Please return the slip and £1 by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March.



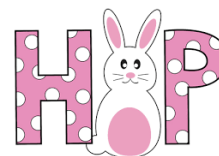
### EASTER EGG DECORATING



Get Your Easter Craft On!! Children are invited to decorate a hard-boiled or foam craft egg and bring it to school on 8<sup>th</sup> April with £1 donation. The best egg in each class will win an Easter Egg. Decorations can be in any form, e.g., paint, pens, glitter, decoupage or theme, such as spring, Easter, super heroes, characters etc. Please write / draw your child's name on the bottom – eggs will be returned at the end of the school day.

### SPONSORED BUNNY HOP

On the 7<sup>th</sup> April, we are going to continue the Easter bunny theme by having the children complete a sponsored bunny hop! The forms and further details will follow.



### FILM NIGHT

PTFA Film Night will be held in school on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 3:15pm - 5:15pm. The PTFA will share more information next week. After School Club will be closed and all children who would usually attend ASC will attend Film Night. Refunds for ASC will be issued in due course.

### BREAK THE RULES

We are also excited for 'Break the Rules' day on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May! Children can break one uniform rule with a suggested donation of £1. Further details will follow. Thank you!



### JUBILEE TEA PARTY

The PTFA are delighted to host our children at our Jubilee Afternoon Tea in honour of the Queen, on the afternoon of 27<sup>th</sup> May!

We will be hosting garden games and fun crafts. There will be class lists for food donations available from 18<sup>th</sup> May.

To fund the games and crafts, we will hold a Break the Rules day on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May for a £1 donation.

### FUNDRAISING

The PTFA is a registered charity, solely raising funds for our school, for planned and future purchases for the benefit of the children at Archbishop Runcie CE First School.

Many thanks,

*Susan Heeley*

Chair of PTFA



**Be courageous; be strong.**  
**Do everything in love.**  
 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

## DIARY DATES

New dates are in red, for your information

11-20 <sup>th</sup> March	British Science Week	-	If any parents/carers have any science based jobs and would like to come into school, please contact Miss Davison.
14-18 <sup>th</sup> March	SEND Review appointments		Please book via ParentMail from 4.2.22
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	PTFA Film Night	3:15pm	Please return paper letters from PTFA and cash in sealed, named envelopes
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day	-	Children invited to wear something red for a £1 donation
	Deadline for Nursery applications for September start (for children who will have turned 3 before 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022)	Noon	
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Newcastle Chorister Experience for children in Y2-Y6		Please contact Newcastle Cathedral
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Tyne Rivers Trust visiting Year 3	pm	
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Mothering Sunday Worship (all classes)	TBC	More info to follow
	Closing date for Smarties tubes		See info from PTFA
	Closing date for PTFA "Name the Bunny"		Please return slips to school
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Tyne Rivers Trust visiting Year 3 (second visit)	pm	
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Teacher Consultations (core curriculum focus)	2:00-6:00pm	Please book via ParentMail from 4.2.22
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Parent Teacher Consultations (core curriculum focus)	2:00-6:00pm	Please book via ParentMail from 4.2.22
<b>April 2022</b>			
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	ASD Awareness Day in school		Activities in school
	Year 4 Residential remaining payment due	Noon	Please pay via ParentMail
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Forest School for Nursery and Year 4	Morning or afternoon	Please send children in long sleeved tops and trousers with appropriate outdoor footwear, waterproofs and warm hats and coats! Voluntary contributions can be made via ParentMail.
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Forest School for Reception and Year 1		
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> April	Forest School for Years 2 and 3		
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	PTFA Sponsored Bunny Hop	In school	See info from PTFA
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Y2 leading Palm Sunday Worship	10:15am	Children and staff only



	PTFA hard-boiled egg decoration competition		Children invited to bring decorated eggs into school (see info from PTFA)
	Easter Service at All Saints' Church	TBC	More details to follow
11-22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Easter holiday	-	School closed to children
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Bookings for May wraparound close		
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Y2 SATS Meeting for parents	5:00pm	
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Collective Worship Council	In school	
	Y4 Times Table Check Meeting for parents	5:00pm	
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	School Council Meeting	In school	
	Y1 Phonics Screen Meeting for parents	5:00pm	
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Reception- Y4 FUNDS session	Am	Children in Reception to Year 4 to wear PE kits please
<b>May 2022</b>			
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Bank holiday		
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 Residential to Dukeshouse Wood	TBC	Please see ParentMail
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	PTFA Break the Rules Day		More info to follow from PTFA
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Y1 leading Christian Aid worship	10:15am	Children and staff only
	Bookings for June wraparound closes		
16 – 20 May	Christian Aid Week Walk to school week		
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 3 Residential final payment due	Noon	Please pay via ParentMail
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Collective Worship Council	In school	
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	School Council Meeting	In school	
	Y2 leading Ascension worship	10:15am	Children and staff only
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Y3 leading Pentecost worship	10:15am	Children and staff only
	PTFA Jubilee Tea Party	In school	More info to follow from PTFA
30 <sup>th</sup> May- 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Half term		
<b>June 2022</b>			
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Platinum Jubilee Picnic at Gosforth, St Nicholas'		More info to follow
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	School closed in lieu of Jubilee Day Bank Holiday which falls in half term		
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	World Oceans Day		
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Y4 leading Trinity worship	10:15am	Children and staff only
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Collective Worship Council	In school	
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	School Council Meeting	In school	
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Bookings for July wraparound close		
20 – 24 <sup>th</sup> June	School Sports Week	-	
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception Sports Day	2:00pm	
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Year 2 Sports Day	2:00pm	
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Nursery Sports Day	9:30am	
	Year 1 Sports Day	2:00pm	
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Year 3 Sports Day	2:00pm	
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 Sports Day	2:00pm	
27.6.22 - 8.7.22	Year 4 swimming every afternoon for 2 weeks	12:45-1:30pm	
30.6.22-1.7.22	Year 3 overnight stay at school		See ParentMail for further info
<b>July 2022</b>			
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Y4 Bikeability	Morning or afternoon session	Children will need a bike and helmet in school in order to take part
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Collective Worship Council	In school	
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	School Council Meeting	In school	
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Bookings for September wraparound close		

11.7.22 - 22.7.22	Year 3 swimming every afternoon for 2 weeks	12:45-1:30pm	
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Full Governing Body	5:00pm	
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	School closes for summer holidays		

**Be courageous; be strong.**

**Do everything in love.**

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

## The Chorister Experience

Sunday 20 March

A free opportunity  
for boys and girls  
in Years 2-6  
to experience being a  
Cathedral Chorister  
for an afternoon




**1.45pm** Registration.

**2pm** Children rehearse with the Cathedral Choir.

**3.30pm** An opportunity for parents and families to meet members of the Cathedral team and Chorister parents.

**4-5pm** Participants sing Choral Evensong with the Cathedral Choir. Families are invited to come and listen.

To book a place for your child, follow the link below

**<https://newcastle-chorister-experience.eventbrite.co.uk>**

or email  
[music@newcastlecathedral.org.uk](mailto:music@newcastlecathedral.org.uk)

